

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs to sponsor 16 special events during October 2017

(DOVER, Del.—Sept. 20, 2017)—During the month of October 2017, the [Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs](#) will be sponsoring 16 special programs at sites across the state. A full schedule is included below. Except where noted, all programs are free and open to the public.



Re-enactment of the Livery of Seizen ritual inside the New Castle Court House Museum. The ceremony will be conducted as part of William Penn Day on Oct. 28, 2017.

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special programs, October 2017

Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017

“Native Ways.” Demonstrations and activities, presented by archeologists, modern practitioners and historic-site

interpreters from The Old State House, showcase ancient technologies and lifeways from Delaware spanning over 14,000 years. [Killens Pond State Park](#), 5025 Killens Pond Road, Felton. 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Free with paid park-admission fee. 302-284-4526.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017

“Let’s Get Ready to Rumble: William Penn vs Lord Baltimore.” Celebrate Dover’s 300th anniversary with a historical-theater production exploring William Penn’s conflict with Lord Baltimore over ownership of the Delmarva Peninsula. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Performances at 1 and 4:30 p.m. Museum open for tours from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. and 2–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017

“Johnson Victrola Museum’s 50th Anniversary Celebration: A Diva’s Tale.” Program at 2:30 p.m.—“From Prima Donnas to Divas: A Victor Creation”—examines the talented female vocalists of the Victor Talking Machine Company and how they paved the way for the divas of today, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. Part of a [series of programs](#) celebrating the museum’s creation in 1967. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Monday, Oct. 9, 2017

Columbus Day. The following museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. The following museums will be closed: The [John Dickinson Plantation](#), the [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#). 302-744-5054.

Monday, Oct. 9, 2017

“Johnson Victrola Museum’s 50th Anniversary Celebration.” Guided tours explore the museum and its collections during

the [golden anniversary](#) of its creation in 1967, accompanied by 78-rpm records played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.

Friday, Oct. 13, 2017

Concert by Crabmeat Thompson. Blues/folk music. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#) and the [First State Heritage Park](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 7:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017

“18th Century Trades Day.” Experience occupations of the 1700s including getting your hands dirty with the blacksmith, preserving food in the smokehouse, weaving a rug on a loom and making bricks out of clay. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Historic-site interpreters outside the John Dickinson Plantation’s smokehouse. Preserving meat through smoking will be demonstrated at the “18th Century Trades Day” on Oct. 14, 2017.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2017

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program

explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017

“Shakespeare, Poe and Fiends.” Delaware Shakespeare presents dramatic readings for the Halloween season. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$18.50 available online at <http://www.delshakes.org/>. 302-323-4453.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017

Delaware State Review Board for Historic Preservation annual business meeting. Agenda TBA. The Delaware Room, [Delaware Public Archives](#), 121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dover. 10 a.m.–Noon. 302-736-7417.

Wednesday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017

“The Spirit of New Castle Past.” Play by historic-site interpreter David Price explores figures from New Castle’s past including a founder, a loose woman, a fire bug, a murderess, a politician, a soldier, a diplomat and a very scared head teller. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required. No admission after the play begins. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017

[Blackbird Creek Fall Festival](#). Family-friendly events include outdoor activities, hayrides, display booths, crafts, and programs by historic-site interpreters from the John Dickinson Plantation. [Blackbird Creek Reserve](#), 801 Blackbird Landing Road, Townsend. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. 302-739-6377.

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2017

“Who Did In the Delaware Ducks?” It is June 1687 and someone has killed Arthur Starr’s ducks! In this historical play,

museum guests meet the suspect and search for clues to help solve the mystery and find a killer. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Oct. 20, 2017.

Friday, Oct. 27, 2017

“Lantern Tours of the Plantation.” Programs explore the parties, games, dances and entertainment that would have abounded at the plantation during the nighttime in the 18th century. Activities will also include wagon-ride guided-tours conducted by staff of the [St. Jones Reserve](#) exploring the nocturnal life of the estuary. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Programs 5:30–6:30 p.m. and 7–8 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling the John Dickinson Plantation at 302-739-3277 no later than Oct. 26.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017

William Penn Day. Day-long series of programs commemorating the 335th anniversary of Penn's disembarkment at New Castle, his first landing in the New World. Activities include the historical plays “Livery of Seizen” and “The Tryal of William Penn”; a concert by De Blokfluiters recorder/flute ensemble; “Life With Mrs. Penn” presentation; and a Baroque harpsichord and flute evening concert. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017

“Mysteries of History.” Walking tour by lead historic-site-interpreter Beth Gott explores the unusual tombstones of St. Peter's cemetery in Lewes. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Tours leaves from the museum at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the tours are

required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than Oct. 27, 2017.

Exhibits and displays, October 2017

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

Thru Dec. 31, 2017

["Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914."](#) Exhibit featuring paintings and painting materials used by the noted Delaware artists Orville Houghton Peets and Ethel Canby Peets. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

["Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I."](#) Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of Delaware.

Ongoing

["Discovering Delaware's Maritime Past."](#) Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of items aboard ship and a model of the vessel. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

["Five Stories."](#) Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation](#) Welcome Center, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March

31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Ongoing

[“New Castle: Three Forts, One Community.”](#) Exhibit examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.



Ongoing

[“The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016.”](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware’s first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

Ongoing

[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#). Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

Ongoing

[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#)

Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty's Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798 to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the [five museums of the State of Delaware](#)—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State's contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware's unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The museums are accredited by the [American Alliance of Museums](#). The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park.

Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).



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